Education has launched a revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) scheme in 2001-2002 to promote Computer Literacy in School in the country. Under the revised CLASS scheme, financial assistance is being provided to States/UTs on the basis of the Computer Education Plans (CEPs) submitted by the States/UTs. Union Government would provide 75% of the financial assistance while the State/UT Government would have to contribute a minimum of 25% of the funds. The CLASS scheme also provides for contribution of 25% of funds, from the MPLADS, in addition or as an alternative, to State Government contribution.

Based on the Computer Education Plan received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh financial assistance of Rs. 14,01,18,750/- has been sanctioned to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for imparting computer education in 500 schools. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 7,00,59,375/- has been released as first instalment during 2001-02.

Status of Bharat Shiksha Kosh

388. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Bharat Shiksha Kosh instituted by HRD Ministry last year as national fund to develop scientific research and technical education:

(b) whether the expected response has been forthcoming from the employers; and

(c) if so,the present corpus of this Kosh and what percentage of accruals has been used for achieving the desired objective and whether further augmentation is now expected from Persons of Indian Origin as an appeal made in Bharatiya Pravasi Divas Sammelan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Bharat Shiksha Kosh has been constituted as a Society under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 and has been launched on 9th January, 2003 during the inauguration of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Sammelan. The Government has made its one time contribution of Rs. 1.00 crore to the Bharat Shiksha Kosh. Contributions to the Kosh are expected from all concerned.